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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RNC Earth Day Contest Results

*By Linda Ritz White, Executive Director, Recycling for Newaygo County*

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Arts Place (NCCA) Assistant Director Faune Benson-Schuitema judges RNC's Earth Day Contest entries, whose first stop was the recycling company's own office at 490 Quarterline St., Newaygo. The top entries are currently on display at Art's Place in Fremont, and move to Fly-by-Night Gallery in Newaygo May 4.

The beautiful results are in, and what a way to celebrate Earth Day!

Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) has announced the results of their Earth Day Contests for 2015, which invited students of all ages in their service area to submit creative arts, written works, and public service video announcements on the four Rs—Reduce Reuse Recycle Rebuy”, how they relate to environmental health, and their economic impact.

Winners in the Creative Arts category are:

High School: “Spread the Love” by Madison Lawyer, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Grant High School;

Middle School: “Jean Skirt from Repurposed Materials” by Rebekah Brettsneider, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Fremont Middle School;

Elementary School: “The Doll Kitchen” by Morgan Brettsneider, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Pathfinder Elementary School in Fremont.

Each winner gets \$25 in cold cash.

There were so many great entries in the High School category that the art contest Judge, Arts Place (NCCA) Assistant Director Faune Benson-Schuitema, named several honorable mentions: RRR by Alyssa Bearup, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade; Save the Earth by Rylee McKinley, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade; Throwing the World Away by Ana Alcazar Vega, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade; All In for the Environment by Courtney Wegener, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade; Respect the bottle by Lauren Comstock, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade; Our Footprint by Stina Larsson, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade; and A Better World by Taylor Wegener, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, all at Grant High School.

In the Elementary division, honorable mentions went to: School Kit by Amelia Brettsneider, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; and Box Troll by Lylan Tunney, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, both at Pathfinder Elementary School.

Winners in the Written Word category are:

High School: No winner.

Middle School: "Lucky Penny" by Maeli Cardiff, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hesperia Middle School

Elementary School: "RECYCLE" by Haley Zerlaut, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Daisy Brook Elementary School, Fremont.

Each student who got an honorable mention will receive a duck to enter in RNC's Duck Race for Recycling May 24 on Daisy Creek and Fremont Lake.

Benson-Schuitema was thrilled with the creative arts efforts put forth by about 50 local students.

"All of the entries submitted to the Earth Day Contest were very creative," she said. "Choosing winners was a difficult decision because each student captured the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy' theme and interpreted it in their own unique way. It is wonderful to see so many students demonstrating the importance of the 4 Rs and future of our planet."

There were no entries in the Public Service Video category.

RNC Board and Education Committee Member Jean Teets, who judged the Written Works category, says the committee is very pleased with participation in this first year for such a contest.

"As you know, RNC has been restructuring our recycling operation and also moved this winter, so we've been busy," said the retired Grant High School English teacher. "This contest was the first thing we did after forming an Education Committee in March.

"We knew time was short, but we wanted to take advantage of Earth Day April 22 and Earth Week to bring earth awareness into focus for our young folk. We've

learned a lot this first go, and next year we'll be able to start earlier. We're excited to see how the contest develops in coming years."

Winning entries and those earning honorable mentions will be displayed at local art galleries over the coming month. Look for them at Art's Place in Fremont April 20 to May 3. They then move to Fly-by-Night Gallery in Newaygo, where they will be on display from May 4 through May 17.

### **Recycling for Newaygo County**

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